

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1 – 8 and 13 – 16 are cancelled. Thus, claims 9 – 12 are now pending in this application.

Applicant now awaits an early and favorable action on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if he feels that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 27, 2003

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Customer Number: 22428

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.